The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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AGITATE! EDUCATE! ORGANIZE!

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MINNESOTA HIGH COURT RECALLS FEUDAL DAYS

Picketing and Boycott Are Prohibited—Labor Paper Is Silenced.

Minneapolis, Feb. 11.—By a 3-to-2 vote the Minnesota state supreme court has upheld Judge Bardwell's injunction against workers picketing the Wonderland theater in this city, or even announcing in the Labor Review that the theater is unfair to organized labor.

Because they refused to accept this denial of free speech and press, Lynn Thompson, Leslie Sinton and Dan Stevens, officers of the central body, and R. D. Cramer, editor of the Labor Review, were each fined $125, to be paid as damages to the theater owner, and an additional $100 to his attorney. The workers again refused to obey the court and served two months in jail, when they were released pending appeal.

The state supreme court upholds Judge Bardwell's injunction except that portion which calls for damages. The gag on the Labor Review, the stoppage of picketing and the order to pay the attorney for the citizen's alliance are all sustained.

The supreme court held that the injunction was justified by the state anti-trust law and by the recent decisions of the United States supreme court in the Granite City (Ill.) and Truax (Ariz.) cases.

In defending its attack on free press, the court said that statements by the Labor Review "injured the plaintiff's business" and though the court stopped the publication of these statements "this did not deprive defendants of the freedom of speech guaranteed by the constitution."

Equally naive is the court's definition of the term "trade," which the United States supreme court has ruled does not include operating a theater. To overcome this handicap, and keep the case within the state anti-trust law, the state supreme court says:

"The word 'trade' is used in the statute in its broad sense and is not restricted to trade involving useful commodities."

In his dissenting opinion, agreed to by Justice Hallan, Judge Dibbell opposed the majority opinion that labor is a commodity and is therefore amenable to the state anti-trust law.

Judge Dibbell called attention to a former decision by the court in the case of the Duluth board of trade, which fixed charges for the service of the members of the board. The state supreme court, at that time, held that this was not a violation of the anti-trust law. The court said: "Labor, whether physical, intellectual, or a combination of the two, is not by any fair rule of construction 'an article of trade, manufacture or use,' or an 'article, commodity or utility' which 'enters into the manufacture of any article of utility' within the meaning of those words as used in the statute."

"It is going a long way, so it seems to me," said Judge Dibbell, "for equity to restrain the peaceful activities of labor or to supervise the conduct of a trade paper in the midst of a class struggle."

The decision means that injunction judges in this state may gag any protest of workers against wrongful conditions.

In the Granite City and Truax cases the United States supreme court made a pretense of permitting picketing and boycotting—if conducted in a harmless manner.

The Minnesota state supreme court wastes no time in assuring workers of rights, while taking these rights from them.

"DETECTIVES" SUE FOR STRIKE BUSTING

Detroit, Mich., Feb. 11.—The associated building employers and the J. Coach detective agency of Cleveland are at loggerheads over the cost of breaking strikes and slugging trade unionists. The Coach company has filed suit for the money, but the case will hardly come to trial, as neither side dare acknowledge their part in the unsavory mess.

Coach submits copies of an agreement with the employers, wherein the latter promise to pay one superintendent $50 a day and operatives $25 a day, with necessary expenses added.

In his plea to the court, Coach says: "Plaintiff agree and contracted to and with the said defendants to alleviate, break up and put down certain labor agitation, disorders and strikes then existing and being waged against said defendants and its members in said city of Detroit and county of Wayne, and in which said labor disputes, disorders and strikes defendants and its members were greatly concerned and interested."

These strikes were marked by brutal assaults on trade union officials and recall the following description by Coach of his methods:

"In their silent, secret, effective way, the industrial operatives uproot relentlessly the weeds of dishonesty, disloyalty and discontent. Through their efforts, unity of purpose is established between employer and employe. Our operatives soon end the reign of labor agitators in shop or factory. We do not care to say more on this subject."

The threatened suit reveals the extent which employers will shovel out money to these sluggers in an effort to break up trade unionism.

ANTIS ARE WEEPING.

Bakersfield, Cal., Feb. 11.—Business men are weeping over losses charged to the recent oil workers' strike, which they declare was "unwarranted."

The strike was caused by oil owners refusing the government's request to renew an agreement with the workers which had preserved industrial peace for four years.

The oil owners wanted to operate on the strictly anti-union basis—with no form of collective bargaining. They labeled this the "American plan," and as usual the business men supported the oil owners, most of whom are absentee owners.

With patronage down to zero because of reduced purchasing power, these business men are now trying to find some one or some thing that will serve as an alibi for their shortsightedness.

SLUGGER IS JAILED.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 11.—The citizens' alliance has lost one of its sluggers—Fred A. Hurst, head of the so-called detective bureau of the anti-unionists.

Hurst arranged to have John Klaus, organizer of the local Typographical union, beaten up. The sluggers picked the wrong party and assaulted John M. Guise, a high school principal. One of the sluggers confessed and Hurst was sentenced to a term not exceeding three years in the state penitentiary.

RAIL SHOP MEN TO MEET.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—Officers of the A. F. of L. railway employes' department have issued a call for the sixth biennial convention, to be held in this city, beginning Monday, April 10.

HUGE UNION BENEFITS.

Chicago, Feb. 11.—Total benefits paid to organized street car men in this city last year totaled $124,-[illegible]. Funeral and disability benefits amounted to $126,022.

More Starvation In West Virginia

Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 11.—Starvation is increasing in the coal section of this state, despite Governor Morgan's attempt to minimize the situation.

The West Virginia Federationist is appealing to the public to remedy conditions and declares that "unless the state or the government take some steps as once to relieve the situation hundreds of frail little bodies will succumb to the pangs of hunger and the grim specter of death will invade the desolate homes of the wealth producers which have made West Virginia one of the wealthiest coal producing states in the nation.

"At no time in the history of this country have we known a more widespread condition of unemployment and greater suffering among the workers than exists today.

"With the greatest epidemic of starvation that has ever visited the United States but little attention is being given the situation by the 'kept' newspapers.

"The miners' relief committee is doing all in its power to relieve the situation.

"The great mass of the people do not understand the conditions that exist in the dark recesses of the West Virginia hills, else they would loosen their purse strings to alleviate the suffering of the coming generation."

VALUATIONS TOO HIGH.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Valuations of railroad property upon which rates are now based are too high, according to state railroad commissioners who have submitted testimony at the interstate commerce commission investigation of freight and passenger rates.

It was shown that the roads are not in such a poverty-stricken condition as their managers allege. Last year, it was stated, the roads borrowed $655,000,000 for new capital and maturing obligations, which is one-quarter of all the securities floated in the United States during that period.

It was also shown that there was less railroad mileage in the hands of receivers last December than in any year since 1912. The commission was informed that this condition is "highly significant," in view of the general losses sustained by farmers and business men.

EGGS FROM CHINA.

New York, Feb. 11.—Nearly 100,-000 dozen eggs were received in this city last week from China, and about double that amount are due this week. It takes the eggs five weeks to reach here. They are sold chiefly to cheaper class retail stores and to bakeries. The largest importations of these eggs are in frozen form. The eggs are removed from the shell and put up in cans for bakery use, and in the dried or powdered form.

RENEW AGREEMENT.

New York, Feb. 11.—Four locals of the International Fur Workers' union in this city have renewed their agreement with the organized fur manufacturers for two years. No change has been made in rates or working conditions.

Fur Workers' unions in Brooklyn, Newark and other near-by localities are equally successful in negotiating agreements.

BUILT HAPHAZARDLY.

New York, Feb. 11.—The contractor who built the American theater building in this city testified before Magistrate McAdoo that he did the steel construction work haphazardly with few measurements, and much "as a child stacks cards." The building collapsed last November, killing seven workers.

PEOPLE MUST CONTROL FEDERAL JUDICIARY

Kansas City, Mo., Feb. 11.—No reform is more pressing or important than the people's control of the federal judiciary, declares James B. Casey, editor of the Boiler Makers' Journal.

The labor editor says the United States supreme court "is not only constructing the laws, but is making laws, as well as nullifying others made by the supreme law-making body of the land.

"Judges are exercising more authority than the judiciary of any other nation in the world today, even in those with monarchial form of government.

"Unless this tendency is soon arrested, they will, in a few decades, assume authority, paralyze our law-making body and submerge the liberties of the people.

"The history of the human race shows that it is dangerous to place unlimited power in the hands of a small body of men. They will constantly enlarge their authority and circumscribe the rights of the people until they finally assume absolute authority.

"Here we have nine men appointed for life, in no way amenable to any authority, not even the one who appoints. They may nullify, by a mere majority, any law enacted by congress and by their decrees prevent congress from enacting any other law for the same purpose.

"While other reforms are necessary, we believe there is none half so pressing or important as a change in the manner of selecting our federal judges, and we hope it will be one of the main issues in our next presidential election."

Miners Seek Unity With Rail Workers

Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—President Lewis of the United Mine Workers has asked the executives of railroad unions and the brotherhoods to confer with the miners on proposed attacks on wage scales, which all these workers face.

In a statement regarding his action, President Lewis said:

"In order to cope with this situation and to successfully combat this frenzied hysteria, the mine workers are willing to pool their interests with the railroad organizations and stand with them in resistance to the proposed attacks on wage scales."

This proposed alliance, President Lewis said, was started at the miners' convention in 1919 with the appointment of a committee to confer with executives of the railroad brotherhoods.

Nothing definite came of that conference and at the miners' last convention the miners' officials were instructed to continue their efforts.

In President Lewis' invitation he made no suggestion of date or place of meeting, these being withheld pending replies.

STATE TROOPS RUN AMUCK.

Newport, Ky., Feb. 11.—Newport citizens are outraged at the conduct of the state troops who paraded through the business section of the city and ordered people off the street and attacking those who did not promptly obey.

The troops are here because of an attempt of the Newport rolling mill and the Andrews steel company to enforce anti-union conditions on the members of the Amalgamated Association of Iron, Steel and Tin Workers.

The latest demonstration of the soldiers follows a similar escapade in the strike zone, after homes of the strikers had been shot up by gunmen. After citizens had crawled out of their cellars they found rifles, machine guns and tanks, that only a little while ago were used to make the world safe for democracy, now pointed in the direction of the homes that had literally been shot to pieces the night before.

The strikers declare that this terrorism was staged to drive them back to work, but not one man of the 200 who joined the strike last July has deserted.

SHAM DEMOCRACY.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The sham democracy of plantation owners in Porto Rico, who are urging independence, is shown in their advocacy of a bill introduced by Congressman Campbell which would create the "associated free state of Porto Rico."

These plantation owners are always calling on the memory of Jefferson and Lincoln in their plea for freedom, but the democracy they profess is not evident in the Campbell bill.

Under this proposal, the legislature shall elect the governor and lieutenant-governor. A resident commissioner of the United States to reside in Porto Rico shall be appointed by the president of the United States. This commissioner will be given powers only enjoyed by autocrats. He will have complete control of the military forces of the island, he may declare martial law or suspend the writ of habeas corpus at will, and he may set aside certain laws.

LIVING IN NEW WORLD.

New York, Feb. 11.—In an address to lawyers in this city Justice Clarke of the United States supreme court, said that all of us are living in a world so new that past experience could be of little service, except as a warning.

"This new world," he said, "is bringing opportunities for pioneer and constructive thinking.

"The fate of Russia warns us that our existing social order, stable though it seems, may not long endure, even when buttressed by great armies, unless the masses of the people, on whom, at last, all governments rest, are given a fair share of that comfort and safety which it should be the first purpose of every government to provide for those who live under it."

ONTARIO ACCIDENTS.

Ottawa, Ontario, Feb. 11.—There were 45,191 accidents reported to the Ontario workmen's compensation board in 1921, as against 54,851 in 1920, a decrease of 9,660. The fatal accidents decreased from 452 to 386. The daily average was 151 accidents reported in 1921, as against 183 in 1920.

BARBERS ORGANIZE.

Indianapolis, Feb. 11.—The Journeymen Barbers' International union has issued charters to locals in Port Arthur and Sulphur Springs, Texas.

"CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW DENOUNCED IN DENVER

Denver, Feb. 11.—Butcher workmen who have been jailed because they resisted Colorado's "can't-strike" law were praised for their Americanism in resolutions passed at a mass meeting of 3,000 trade unionists and other citizens in this city.

A committee of 100 men and women was created to carry on agitation against the handcuff law.

The state industrial commission, which enforces this law, was declared to have proven by its partial action that "it is but another agency in the hands of the capitalistic interests, serving them as a means of further subjecting workers to the dictates of exploiting employers and profiteers.

"By conforming to the orders of such capitalistic agencies as the industrial commission, anti-strike laws, court injunctions, military law, etc., we deliberately invite the destruction of our unions and curtailment of our rights. Any union barred from striking fails in the chief mission for which it is created, and can be of no further effective service to the workers who support it.

"It is the duty and to the interest of every working man and woman, both organized and unorganized, to give his utmost energy—even his life, if necessity and his honor require it—to preserve the principles and sterling virtues of the institutions of organized labor against the onslaught of anti-union tyrants who seek to destroy them."

The committee of 100 is instructed to arrange for periodical parades, demonstrations, etc. enlisting the co-operation of all workers in a campaign to oppose the "can't-strike" law. Precinct organizations of all workers will also be perfected to develop an intelligent public opinion against the law.

FARMERS ARE DEFLATED.

Washington, Feb. 11.—How control of money affects the lives of the people is shown by A. D. Zander in a letter to Governor Hart of Washington and which has been inserted in the Congressional Record by Senator Jones of Washington. Mr. Zander is chairman of the executive committee national non-partisan league of Washington. He writes to Governor Hart:

"The war finance board opened an office in Spokane, October 10. Up to the present time (Dec. 14) they have made but one loan, because the banks refused to co-operate with them; thousands of our farmers who have good security can not get money to carry on their farming operations, and a great many farms will be foreclosed.

"One of our largest and best wheat and stock farms in the state was foreclosed last week; as there were no buyers it was bid in by the mortgage company at $7 per acre. Live stock and machinery would practically bring nothing, if put up at foreclosure sale at the present time.

"Millions of people in the United States are suffering for want of food, and food products are far below the cost of production. Farmers say if money can be deflated to make interest rates high, farm crops can also be deflated to make higher prices. This is the only hope they see. This will cause a great deal more unemployment and a great deal more misery and suffering."

Mr. Zander recommends that the national government loan its war finance money through county treasurers and county commissioners, rather than banks.

MONEY IN STOCK JOBBING.

New York, Feb. 11.—The vast sums mulcted from the people through stock jobbery was indicated at a hearing before a federal commissioner on the bankrupt stockbroking firm of E. D. Dier & Co. One employe said he was paid $12,000 a year, but considered himself only a clerk. Dier, it was stated, "pulled down" $100,000 last year.

The firm sold $1,400,000 of stock of the El Progresso mining company, but the only asset this company has is a contract to buy mines in Mexico. The federal commissioner was told that if the mining property had been acquired it would take between $3,000,000 and $4,000,000 to work it.

Asked if the buyers of the $1,-400,000 worth of stock had been told of this, the witness replied:

"No. You don't tell these things when you are trying to sell stock."

WOULD AID MINERS.

Washington, Feb. 11.—If congress can vote $20,000,000 for Russian relief, it should vote $500,000 to relieve coal miners in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and other states, said Congressmen Foster and Thomas before the house mines and mining committee.

Both congressmen told of the distress that exists among these workers because the mine industry is paralyzed.

COSSACKS IN MARYLAND.

Baltimore, Feb. 11.—A cossack bill has been introduced in the Maryland legislature. It provides for arrests without warrant.

Painters Need Short Work Day To Guard Life

New York, Feb. 11.—The painters' trade is an extra hazardous one and a short work day is a necessary health measure, said Dr. Louis I. Harris, director of the bureau of preventable diseases of the city health department, writing to Samuel Untermyer, counsel for the Lockwood building probe committee.

In an investigation covering 400 painters, Dr. Harris said he found, as have many other students of this question, that a relatively small proportion of painters could retain their place in the industry after the age of 50—so deleterious were lead and the other poisons to which they were constantly subjected.

"I found, too," said Dr. Harris, "that the various volatile poisons to which painters are subjected, make it impossible for men to work for relatively long periods of time during the day. Many of the men were affected in varying degrees by the fumes of volatile poisons used in the mixing of paints.

"In a previous study which I made of the effects of volatile poisons, especially wood alcohol, I found, as had others before me, that men who were obliged to work with paint were not safe from attacks of blindness or even more disastrous results, if they were exposed for a number of hours in succession.

"So hazardous is the painters' environment that I would deem it extremely dangerous for any person over 40 years of age, whose kidneys and circulatory system were not in normal condition, to merely expose himself to the dust and fumes generated in the course of painting, even though such person should not do a stroke of physical labor that would aggravate the effects of such poisonous chemicals. Added then to the dangerous environment and the difficulty of preventing the swallowing and absorption of lead, even though the painter may seek to exercise the utmost caution, we have physical strain, both of which combine to make the painters' trade, as I have already stated, a very dangerous one."

DOUBLE-DEALING RAIL MANAGERS EXPOSED BY M'ADOO

UNION SPY HEAD JAILED IN N. Y.

New York, Feb. 11.—"Captain" Robert J. Foster, head of a union spy bureau and so-called "detective" agency, has been sentenced to serve 30 days in the city prison and pay a fine of $500 for his refusal to furnish information to the Lockwood committee regarding his spy methods.

Foster's offices adjoin these of Walter Drew, general counsel of the anti-union national erectors' association. In December, last year, Foster told the Lockwood committee that he was retained by big steel interests, through Drew. He admitted that his "operatives" spied on unions, but he refused to give other information.

Attorneys for Foster appealed the decision which will be used by Foster to secure additional spy business.

AMERICAN RAILROADS BOYCOTT U. S. VESSELS

Washington, Feb. 11.—The Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul and the Great Northern railroads will inform the shipping board on March 1, it is stated, whether they will abrogate their preferential contracts with Japanese vessels.

The railroads and their especial defenders have been placed in an embarrassing position since it has been discovered that the largest trunk lines in the country have secret agreements with foreign shipping companies which amount to an out-and-out boycott of American vessels.

The agreements are made public just at a time when every 100 per cent American was preparing to shout:

"Subsidize American ships that we may have an American merchant marine."

"Down with the La Follette seamen's law—it is a barrier to an American merchant marine."

COST OF LIVING.

Washington, Feb. 11.—The bureau of labor statistics report that from 1914 to December, 1921, the cost of living increased 74.3 per cent on an average, in 32 leading cities of the country. Increases in several of the larger cities are reported as follows:

Baltimore, 73.2 per cent; Boston, 70.2 per cent; Buffalo, 76.8 per cent; Chicago, 72.3 per cent; Cleveland, 76.4 per cent; Detroit, 82.4 per cent; Houston, 73.6 per cent; Jacksonville, 75.1 per cent; Los Angeles, 76.4 per cent; Mobile, 63.6 per cent; New York, 78.1 per cent; Norfolk, 79.2 per cent; Philadelphia, 74.3 per cent; Portland, Me., 69.2 per cent; Portland, Ore., 58.3 per cent; San Francisco and Oakland, 63.6 per cent; Savannah, 66.2 per cent; Seattle, 71.5 per cent; Washington, D. C., 63 per cent.

The average increase of 74.3 per cent in 32 cities of the United States since 1913 is divided as follows: Food, 50 per cent increase; clothing, 84.4 per cent; housing, 61 per cent; fuel and light, 81.1 per cent; furniture and furnishings 118 per cent; miscellaneous, 106.8 per cent; average, increase since 1913, 74.3 per cent.

OPPOSES ALLEN LAW.

Salina, Kan., Feb. 11.—Fred W. Knapp, state auditor for the past four years, is a candidate for governor on a platform that includes opposition to Allen's "can't-strike" law.

Mr. Knapp belongs to the same political party as Governor Allen, but the ex-auditor has this to say of the industrial court:

"The industrial court should be abolished. It has been given a fair trial and has proven incompetent and absolutely worthless in dealing with industrial disputes. In fact, it has been the center of an internal war since its organization and has done more to foster and engender hatred, disorder and disagreement among employers and employes than all the other disturbing elements combined. Its underlying principle may be an ideal subject for a chautauqua lecture, but its practical operation in Kansas has proven it to be a menace, a political foot ball and an item of expense to the tune of more than $100,000 annually."

LESS COAL ACCIDENTS.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Idleness in the coal industry is reflexed in the decreased number of accidents, which resulted in a smaller loss of life last year than in any year since 1903, according to the federal bureau of mines.

Information from all state mine inspectors shows a total of 1,973 men killed as compared with 2,271 in the preceding year, a reduction of 298 fatalities, or more than 13 per cent.

OPPOSE COSSACKS.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 11.—Sheriffs of this state oppose the cossack system, and will ask the next legislature to pass legislation that will aid in centralizing efforts to enforce laws and apprehend criminals.

Chinese Seamen On American Ships

San Francisco, Feb. 11.—If the general manager of the Admiral steamship line wants American seamen, why does he go to Hongkong to hire Chinese sailors, asks the Seamen's Journal. This paper states that there are Chinese crews on the steamers Keystone State, Pine Tree State, Wentachee and Bay State.

"The first named steamer, owned by the shipping board, and operated by the Admiral line, recently arrived in Seattle with a crew of Chinese hired at Hongkong at the Chinese rate of wages, and was said to be carrying 129 more Orientals to be transferred to the Bay State. They were later, however, transferred to the Pine Tree State instead, to replace a crew of 45 American citizens.

"The 'patriotic American' ship owners have almost succeeded in their contemplated plan of reducing seamen's wages to starvation level. Because of this policy, even the Chinese crews on shipping board vessels are now resorting to the strike.

"While doing this our ship owners are attempting to rob the public treasury through the subsidy fraud. At the same time they have materially increased the freight rates on grain to starving Russia.

"Altogether it looks as if within another year there well be very, very few American seamen remaining to 'replace aliens' now on the ships sailing under the Stars and Stripes.

"'How can you expect men to remain patriotic; men who in the world war fought in the army and navy and gave their lives to protect the government?' which now sanctions the contemptible schemes of certain coolie loving 'American' ship owners is the question asked by several members of the discharged crew of the steamer Pine Tree State."

"And the echo answers: 'How?'"

PROFITEER IN BREAD.

Washington, Feb. 11.—When workers are compelled to pay 10 cents for a pound loaf of bread, Albert F. Coyle, secretary of the all-American commission, wants to know who grabs the extra profit?

"A congressional committee investigating the high cost of living in the District of Columbia found that one of the largest bakers made a profit of $315,059 in one year, not counting his own salary of $30,000. Flour then cost twice what it does now. And yet within the past week this same baker has announced an increase of a cent a loaf in his products.

"But the bakers and retailers are not the only ones who are profiteering on the people's universal need for bread. The wheat millers stand convicted by the federal trade commission, in its report on profiteering to the United States senate, of squeezing the people for an average profit of 38 per cent—'profits that are indefensible; considering that an average profit of one mill for six months of the year shows as high as $2 a barrel,' as against an average profit of 13½ cents a barrel before the war.

"Next to the miller stands the jobber, through whom all but the biggest bakers buy their flour. The federal trade commission reported that jobbers who were content with an average profit of 15 cents a barrel in 1913-14, have increased their exaction to 50 cents a barrel."

LUMBER PRICES UP.

Seattle, Feb. 11.—"The price of lumber is going up," says Harry W. Call, secretary-treasurer of the International Union of Timber Workers. "Prices have been going up for many weeks and lumber owners frankly admit that prices will not go back to previous levels. In other words, things are coming their way.

"Wages in this industry have been reduced from 43 to 50 per cent, and in some cases much more. In spite of the great increase in the price of lumber, there has been no increase in wages. In fact, in some localities wage cuts are the order of the day.

"Large foreign orders and a greatly delayed building program in this country will consume more lumber than will be manufactured this year. For the next five years at least, the lumber buying public will be at the mercy of the lumber owners.

"Wages are down and will stay down until the workers see fit to organize and put them up. The present price of lumber cannot be charged to high wages, but it can be charged to a virtual monopoly of standing timber."

PROBE PITTSBURGH PLUS.

Milwaukee, Feb. 11.—The federal trade commission is holding hearings in this city on the steel trust's practice known as "Pittsburgh plus." Under this system steel manufacturers operating outside of Pittsburgh must charge customers the freight cost from Pittsburgh to their plant.

When a Milwaukee manufacturer sells steel to a local contractor the latter is charged an additional amount equal to freight cost of the steel from Pittsburgh to Milwaukee, although the steel was never outside the city limits of Milwaukee. By means of "Pittsburgh plus" the trust's mills in the Pittsburgh district are placed on an equality with mills nearer the raw material in northern Minnesota and Alabama. The scheme costs the people millions of dollars annually.

URGE "CAN'T-STRIKE" LAW.

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 11.—The state association of builders favors the passage of "can't-strike" legislation, but to secure its passage gumshoe methods, rather than the big stick, will be used.

The builders passed a resolution in favor of outlawing strikes and then appointed a committee to survey conditions to determine whether it was advisable to push the plan. Organized labor in this state has made such an outcry against this law that the builders have concluded not to get identified with a lost cause.

TEN CENT STORE PROFITS.

New York, Feb. 11.—The F. W. Woolworth company, operating 5 and 10-cent stores, report a surplus of more than $13,000,000 last year, after all costs have been met. This surplus is equivalent to $20.54 earned on the $65,000,000 common stock as against $12.87 a share the previous year.

Former Director General of Railroads "Shows Up" Moral Dishonesty of Supposed "High-Minded" Business Men.

Washington, Feb. 11.—Railroad managers who were directing their properties under government control were most insistent, during the war, that railroad wages be raised to hold employes. These managers now blame the government for wages that were never high, as compared with other callings, said former Director General of Railroads McAdoo in testifying on the railroad situation before the senate committee on interstate commerce.

The witness unfolded a sordid tale of double-dealing by the railroad managers. It was shown that President Smith of the New York Central, President Rea of the Pennsylvania, and other well known executives insisted that the railroad administration increase wages.

The managers acknowledged that wages paid by them were low, and they agreed with the Franklin K. Lane report which stated that when the government took control of the roads 51 per cent of all railroad employes were paid but $75 a month or less.

These rail managers now charge the railroad administration with being responsible for "high" wages and with wrecking their properties.

It is significant that the double-dealing managers have not replied to the testimony of the former director, and newspapers that have aided the managers in their present propaganda are likewise silent.

Answering the charge that the railroads were mismanaged under government control, Mr. McAdoo showed that the executive personnel of the railroads was retained by the government. If there was inefficiency and extravagance in 1918, he said, the managers were guilty, and if they were not guilty then, they are now guilty of attempting to besmirch their own record.

"The railroads collapsed because of the war and the government was compelled to act," said Mr. McAdoo.

"What pretense can these managers make, that they could have produced better results than the government when they signally failed to function efficiently not only during the first five months of 1918, but also in 1916 and 1917, as shown by the scathing criticism of the railroad corporations by the interstate commerce commission, in its decision of January 18, 1917."

The former director said that on February 8, 1918, when "the situation was extremely black for the allies," President Wilson handed him a collective message from the prime ministers of Great Britain, France and Italy, which stated that the bread cereals sent from North America were, in December, 1917, 500,000 tons below the amount agreed to by a conference held in Paris.

"The railroads," said Mr. McAdoo, "were exclusively in the hands of their private owners throughout December, 1917."

Under government control empty freight cars from the east were rushed west and were rushed back to the Atlantic seaboard loaded with food supplies.

The witness stated that this operation saved the war for the allies, as at that time the rations of the Italian army had been reduced twice, the rations of the French army once, while starvation was facing the civil population of the allies.

"Free" Insurance Paid by Workers

Albany, N. Y., Feb. 11.—"The wage reduction last July of 12½ per cent, as well as the reduction of 10 per cent they are now clamoring for would buy you real insurance which you could keep for your heirs after you left the employment of this company."

The above summarizes the attitude of transportation employes toward the "free" insurance recently announced by the Delaware & Hudson railroad. In a joint statement, the engineers, firemen, conductors, telegraphers and trainmen say:

"The Delaware & Hudson management has just launched an insurance scheme that in our opinion may be masquerading under the pretense of philanthropy, while really intended to undermine the organizations and weaken their power for good for their members.

"The proposition is declared to be voluntary on the part of the Delaware & Hudson company, which reserves the right to discontinue, modify and do to the plan whatever it sees fit in the future. This leaves the company perfectly free to do as it likes.

"The main purpose of the free insurance proposition is to discourage employes from carrying insurance in their labor organizations, and to take from them their insurance propositions when soliciting members. This is undoubtedly done in the hope that, with the protective activities now temporarily suspended by action of the United States railroad labor board, it will result in the men not feeling the need for membership in railroad labor organizations and make them inclined to take more attractive insurance features offered by the company in their stead."

MAY BREAK CONTRACTS.

St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 11.—Organized photo engravers are sadder, but wiser, on the use of the injunction, since their experience with Judge Lewis of the Ramsey county district court.

The employers broke their contract with the photo engravers. The violation was so clear-cut that the workers were confident the contract could be reinstated by the injunction process.

So they told their story to Judge Lewis, and asked him to issue an order that the employers again make the contract effective.

Judge Lewis told the workers that the contract was not a valid contract, that there was a lack of "mutuality" because the contract did not call for a valuable consideration.

SAYS MINERS ARE STARVING.

Grafton, W. Va., Feb. 11.—Organized mine workers have appealed to President Harding for federal aid for 1,000 starving miners and their families of this district.

"While committees are parading around making investigations, little children are suffering from cold and starvation," the president is informed.

"Never in the history of the state of West Virginia has suffering been so prevalent as it is now. Therefore, we earnestly appeal to you to use your influence to secure for starving men, women and children of West Virginia the same consideration that was given to starving men, women and children of Russia."

BUILDERS ARE CUT.

Denver, Feb. 11.—Wages of Pueblo building craftsmen have been cut from 50 cents to $2 a day by the state industrial commission. The workers have registered a protest against these reductions.

SCHOOLS NOT NEEDED, SAYS SOUTHERN COURT

Greensboro, N. C., Feb. 11.—The Daily News makes editorial suggestion to the North Carolina supreme court that it quickly "get away" from its recent decision that schools are not a public necessity.

The court ruled that schools differ from certain other utilities, as water works, electric lights, court houses and prisons, in that schools are not a public necessity, whereas, the others are; therefore, the public credit cannot be pledged for erection of school buildings by governing bodies in their representative capacity, but such use of public credit must be authorized by vote of the people.

"Everybody, except the supreme court," says the Daily News, "teaches in North Carolina that education is a necessity, public and individual; that it is the duty of the state, both to itself and to its citizens as individuals, that it is the duty of every citizen in public or private station to promote education; that every power, influence and agency should be exerted to the uttermost in promotion of an all-inclusive education, which should be made better and better, more nearly complete, all the while.

"Of course, all turns upon the definition of 'necessity.' The supreme court has been constrained to produce an absurdity by its definition; and a body of grave and reverend gentlemen, nothing, if not learned; nothing, if not sensible, will not rest longer than necessary in company with such an absurdity of its own creation."

LABOR PRESS EFFECTIVE.

New York, Feb. 11.—Writing in the Annalist, well-known financial magazine, Edward A. Bradford credits the labor press for the present attitude of railway workers toward the railroads. He says:

"The several unions of the 2,000,-000 railway workers publish newspapers resembling what are called 'house organs,' or trade papers or bank circulars. They have only a limited circulation, but they make votes that are reliable on election day, which is more than can be said for more widely circulated journals appealing to more variegated tastes and not able to control the suffrages of their leaders.

"If any one wishes to know why railway workers are so stubborn in their anti-railway views it is necessary to make some little journeys into some of these union publications."

WOULD SUE UNIONS.

Boston, Feb. 11.—Organized labor in this state is arranging to combat the "sue" law at the polls next November. Under this act labor unions can be sued, just as incorporated bodies. When the legislature passed the bill organized labor secured the signatures of 15,000 voters who requested that it be placed on the ballot for referendum at the next election. If the voters do not reject the law it becomes effective the first of next year.

TEXTILE WAGES CUT.

Boston, Feb. 11.—Northern New England cotton manufacturers, employing approximately 50,000 workers, have announced wage cuts as high as 20 per cent in some cases.

Where these workers are organized by the United Textile Workers the wage reductions are resisted and numerous strikes have been called.

START LABOR FORWARD.

Superior, Wis., Feb. 11.—Organized labor has started a labor forward movement in this city.